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## WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS IN 1952 AND 1953

World cattle numbers at the beginning of 1953 are estimated at a new record level of 845 million head by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. This is an increase of 2 percent over numbers at the beginning of 1952 and 14 percent above the 1936-40 average of 743 million head. World cattle numbers have increased every year since the end of World War II and barring a major natural disaster in some of the more important areas numbers are likely to increase again in 1953.

Strong demand for beef and veal, and the relatively more favorable returns from beef cattle in recent years encouraged cattle growers in most areas to continue their expansion into 1952. Free market prices had held firm in the United States and Canada until early 1952 and those countries producing beef and veal for export under contract were either assured or anticipating an increase in price, when breeding and feeding plans were made for the year.

CATTLE: Estimated world total, by continent or area, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1951 and 1952.

Continent or area	Average		1952 1/	1953 1/	Increase (+) or decrease (-)	
	1936-40	1946-50			1953	1936-40
	Thousands	Thousands			1952	1953
North America	96,700	112,600	122,100	128,700	+33	+5
Europe	103,200	93,500	101,600	102,100	-1	+0.5
U.S.S.R.	59,800	50,800	58,800	-	-	-
Asia	295,700	282,100	298,700	302,400	+2	+1
South America	105,500	126,500	135,000	138,800	+32	+3
Africa	64,400	84,900	92,700	94,600	+47	+2
Oceania	18,100	19,100	20,500	20,100	+11	-2
Total	743,400	769,500	829,400	845,200	+14	+2

1/ Preliminary.

A summary of this information was published in the April 13, 1953 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.

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TABLE: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1948-1953

Continent and country	Month of 1/ estimate	1936-40	Average	1946-50	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952 2/	1953 2/
		Thousands								
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>										
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	8,246	8,883	8,946	8,251	8,243	8,290	7,936	8,906	8,906
Costa Rica		366	32/	556	506	606	685	—	—	—
El Salvador		680	32/	700	765	—	825	—	—	—
Guatemala		520	32/	900	901	903	—	—	—	—
Honduras		524	32/	1,000	945	950	—	—	—	—
Mexico	Dec. 31 1/	32/	11,716	13,530	13,524	15,000	14,500	14,700	14,700	14,500
Nicaragua		2/	800	32/	1,235	1,200	1,275	1,275	1,250	1,250
Panama		434	32/	567	567	—	577	—	—	—
United States	Jan. 1	66,706	78,951	77,171	76,830	77,963	82,025	87,844	87,844	87,844
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/	5,024	4,500	4,500	4,400	4,550	4,600	4,500	4,500	4,500
Dominican Republic		32/	885	52/	887	—	887	857	857	857
Estimated total		96,700	112,600	110,700	111,500	112,200	116,700	122,100	128,700	128,700
<b>EUROPE</b>										
Austria	Dec. 1 1/	32/	2,600	62/	2,173	62/	2,109	62/	2,203	2,203
Belgium	Jan. 1	1,724	1,674	1,674	1,588	1,688	1,902	2,460	2,450	2,450
Denmark	Dec. 31 1/	3,108	2,881	2,881	2,668	2,751	2,886	2,020	2,127	2,127
Finland	Mar. 1	2/	1,850	1,598	1,452	1,542	1,611	2,974	2,974	2,974
France	Fall 1/	15,504	15,067	15,125	15,434	15,404	15,803	16,240	16,194	16,194
Germany, Western	Dec. 1 1/	32/	12,114	10,831	10,291	10,569	10,883	11,148	11,275	11,641
Greece 8/	Dec. 31 1/	32/	1,278	742	752	732	732	802	915	956
Ireland		4,021	4,093	3,921	4,127	4,322	4,376	4,309	4,309	4,309
Italy	Jan. 1	8,550	7,400	7,263	7,834	8,162	8,331	8,331	8,400	8,400
Luxembourg	Dec. 1 1/	32/	108	114	114	111	115	118	120	120
Netherlands	May	2,693	2,473	2,313	2,540	2,723	2,863	2,858	2,858	2,858
Norway	June 20	1,390	1,226	1,175	1,224	1,237	1,231	1,231	1,170	1,170
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	32/	905	975	1,000	—	—	930	930	930
Spain	Dec. 31 1/	32/	3,739	3,950	4,000	—	—	—	4,200	4,200
Sweden	Summer	2,959	2,705	2,625	2,584	2,648	2,633	2,633	2,532	2,532
Switzerland	April 1	1,663	1,471	1,424	1,478	1,530	1,607	1,607	1,682	1,682
United Kingdom	June	8,798	9,973	9,806	10,244	10,620	10,473	10,473	10,244	10,244
Yugoslavia 8/	Jan. 1	1/	4,181	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total above		77,200	72,200	71,700	74,200	76,300	77,800	78,400	79,000	79,000
Other Europe		26,000	20,200	19,300	20,400	21,800	22,600	23,200	23,100	23,100
Estimated total		103,200	93,500	91,000	94,600	98,100	100,400	101,600	102,100	102,100
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).	Jan. 1	32/	59,800	50,800	50,000	54,000	56,000	57,200	58,800	58,800
<b>ASIA</b>										
Iran	March	2/	2,797	2,700	2,500	2,510	3,500	3,600	—	—
Turkey 8/	Dec. 31 1/	32/	8,611	10,826	10,748	11,116	11,001	11,051	—	—
Burma 8/	Dec. 31 1/	32/	6,165	5,030	5,209	—	—	5,350	5,540	5,540
Ceylon 8/	Dec. 31 1/	32/	1,625	1,732	1,740	1,792	1,905	1,628	1,680	1,680
China 10/		25,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
India 8/	Jan. 1	32/	180,000	178,200	178,200	181,500	181,500	193,200	193,200	193,200
Indonesia 8/	Dec. 31 1/	32/	7,669	6,330	6,330	6,370	6,370	6,830	6,830	7,574
Japan	Feb. 1	32/	1,798	2,167	2,167	2,294	2,294	2,670	2,670	2,670
Korea, South	Dec. 31 1/	32/	922	646	646	684	684	572	572	572

ASIA (Continued)

Philippine Islands	8/.....	Jan. 1	4,340	2,329	2,477	2,601	3,058	3,249	3,460
Taiwan (Formosa)	8/.....	Dec. 31	1/	307	298	310	357	381	394
Thailand	8/.....	Mar. 31	11,303	7,775	8,000	7,000	-	6,330	-
Pakistan	8/.....	Jan. 1	23,000	15/	30,000	-	-	29,049	6,490
Estimated total	11/.....		295,700	282,100	280,600	283,100	285,800	288,500	298,700
									302,400

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina		July	12/	33,762	41,150	43,000	42,000	39,000	39,000
Bolivia		35/	1,842	15/	1,493	-	46,250	52,655	-
Brazil		33/	40,807	46,200	46,000	2,324	2,344	2,391	2,186
Chile		June	2/	2,489	2,345	13,893	14,538	15,513	15,512
Colombia		Dec. 31	1/; 2/	8,010	14,148	-	4,087	3,865	3,763
Paraguay		Dec. 31	1/; 2/	3,259	3,890	2,790	2,662	2,883	2,824
Peru				-	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay		May	15/	8,297	7,875	-	-	-	-
Estimated total			105,500	126,500	127,900	128,900	128,400	132,100	135,000
									138,800

AFRICA

Algeria	12/.....	Apr. 11		841	759	698	747	765	810
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan		3/	2,700	2/	3,350	-	-	-	-
Kenya		5/	5,239	5/	5,150	5,589	5,612	5,550	5,650
Tanganyika		3/	5,000	3/	6,324	6,370	6,425	6,425	6,113
Uganda		Mar. 31	2,466	3/	2,464	2,485	-	2,525	2,714
Basutoland		February	437	3/	430	-	431	-	401
Egypt	8/.....	June	12/	2,021	3/	3,096	3,185	3,366	3,408
Ethiopia				-	-	-	-	-	-
French Morocco	12/.....	Dec. 31	1/	1,970	1,652	1,326	1,549	1,762	1,942
Madagascar	12/.....	Dec. 31	1/	5,172	5,700	5,737	5,603	5,412	5,892
Mozambique		Dec. 31	1/	548	632	631	659	700	738
Angola				-	-	-	-	-	773
Southern Rhodesia		Dec. 31	1/	2,306	2,878	2,748	2,822	3,004	2,981
Spanish Morocco		Dec. 31	1/	2,340	2,55	250	279	291	2,964
Tunisia	12/.....	Dec. 31	1/	494	394	368	340	359	-
Union of South Africa		August	11/	11,636	12,285	12,470	12,242	11,513	395
Estimated total			64,400	84,900	85,700	86,900	87,400	90,300	92,700
									94,600

OCEANIA

Australia		Mar. 31	1/	13,285	13,971	13,735	14,124	14,640	15,228
New Zealand		Jan. 31	4,449	4,738	4,716	4,723	4,949	5,060	5,158
Estimated total			18,100	19,100	18,900	19,200	20,000	20,700	20,500
Estimated world total			743,400	769,500	764,800	778,200	787,900	805,900	829,400
									845,200

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1947 estimate of

8,94,000 is shown under 1948. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/ June. 5/ Census or estimate for single year. 6/ Official statistics; may be underestimates of actual numbers. 7/ September. 8/ Data include buffaloes. 9/ Census, December 31, 1934. 10/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces), Manchuria, Jehol, and Sinkiang (Turkestan). 11/ Includes estimates for Outer Mongolia. 12/ Data include only number taxed.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory, unless otherwise noted. Totals includes estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.

Although economic and weather conditions and the feed situation differ in various countries, totals by continents show an increase for 1953 over 1952 in all but Oceania, and the decrease in that area was minor. Expansion was limited in some countries by competition with sheep, in others by demands for more arable lands for grain crops and in Western Europe by disease (foot-and-mouth) losses.

The most pronounced build-up in cattle numbers in the postwar period has occurred in Africa, 47 percent over prewar, North America 33 percent, South America 32 percent and Oceania 11 percent. Eastern Europe and U.S.S.R. are still below prewar, Western Europe reached prewar totals in 1951 and is estimated about 2 percent above prewar in 1953. Numbers in Asia are placed 2 percent above the 1936-40 average.

For 1953, further expansion in cattle is anticipated in North America. United States numbers are now at a record high but the upswing is expected to continue into 1953 in spite of lower prices. Canadian numbers are at the build-up stage of their cycle and numbers in Mexico are expected to increase, weather permitting.

Argentine numbers are building up again and with the impetus of a fairly favorable contract with the United Kingdom should recover to the levels reached prior to the drought of 1949-50. In Uruguay as is true to some extent in other livestock producing countries, competition from sheep raising is keen. Ranges in that country are completely stocked and cattle will do well to maintain present numbers in the face of the favorable outlook for wool.

In New Zealand and Australia conditions are favorable for further increase, breeding herds have been built up, new contracts with the United Kingdom for beef have recognized increased cost of production and drought conditions have ended in Australia.

As the demand for meat continues strong in Europe and as it appears that the foot-and-mouth disease has abated somewhat, some recovery in cattle numbers is expected there in 1953.

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This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.